

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3366

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AG

SUBJ: CUSTOMS CCINC TRAINING COURSE: EMBASSY EVALUATION

US CUSTOMS FOR KEENAN, INTL OPS DIV, WASHINGTON

1. FROM NOV 3-14 FOUR US CUSTOMS OFFICERS (RAYMOND BOONE, DUKE REEVES, WALDEN SHOLD, AND PETER HERRICK) ASSISTED BY TWO STATE DEPARTMENT INTERPRETERS (JOSE DE SEABRA AND HELEN KAPS) CONDUCTED TRAINING COURSE IN CUSTOMS OPERATIONS FOR SOME 25 ALGERIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS. COURSE WAS SUCCESS FROM SEVERAL POINTS OF VIEW:

A. SUBSTANTIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALGERIAN OFFICIALS:
ALTHOUGH IMPRESSION OF CUSTOMS TEAM WAS THAT ALGERIANS GENERALLY COMPETENT IN GENERAL CUSTOMS OPERATIONS, PROGRAM WAS EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL, PARTICULARLY IN ITS EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS AND IN VESSEL SEARCH TECHNIQUES.

B. RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO CUSTOMS SERVICES: CUSTOMS TEAM WISELY APPROACHED COURSE NOT AS A FORMAL TRAINING EXERCISE BUT AS A SHARING OF EXPERIENCES BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF PROFESSIONALS. TRAINEES RESPONDED WELL TO THIS APPROACH, AND SENIOR ALGERIAN CUSTOMS MEN SAID THAT IT WAS KEY TO SUCCESS OF PROGRAM.

C. PERSONAL RELATIONS: ALGERIANS RESPONDED VERY WELL TO RELAXED, FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF CUSTOMS TEAM. TEAM INVITED ALGERIANS TO DINNER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND THESE INVITATIONS WERE RECIPROCATED ON MORE THAN ONE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ONE BASIS. HIGHLIGHT OF TEAM'S SOCIAL SCHEDULE WAS ALL-

DAY VISIT TO SUMMER HOME OF ONE OF TRAINEES IN MOUNTAINS
NEAR ALGIERS.

2. TO SUM UP, WE REGARD COURSE WAS RESOUNDING SUCCESS.
ALGERIAN CUSTOMS DIRECTOR SI MOUSSA TOLD EMBOFF THAT
PROGRAM HAD SHOWN HIM WAY FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN
US AND ALGERIA IN CUSTOMS MATTERS AND IMPLIED STRONGLY
THAT GOA WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO SUCH EXERCISES IN FUTURE.
IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE PREFERRED COURSE IN ALGERIA TO
SENDING ALGERIANS TO US FOR TRAINING.

3. EMBASSY COMMENDS CUSTOMS TEAM, AND ITS LEADER BOONE,
IN HIGHEST TEAMS. SHOULD SI MOUSSA COME TO US IN
DECEMBER AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED, BOONE WOULD BE IDEAL
ESCORT OFFICER.

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